



HISTORY OF THE EXPEDITION UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPTAINS LEWIS AND CLARK

To the Sources of the Missouri River, thence across the
Rocky Mountains and down the Columbia River to the
Pacific Ocean, performed during the Years

1804-5-6, by Order of the
Government of the United States

1814

FIRST EDITION, COMPLETE WITH MAPS ON DISPLAY AT

**The Astor Library
Astoria, Oregon**

FIRST AUTHORIZED AND COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WESTERN EXPLORATION

Publication of this most important of all overland narratives was attended with misfortunes. Captain Lewis was to have edited the journals, but while serving as Governor of the Louisiana Territory, he met a mysterious death in 1809. Clark, serving as Agent of Indian Affairs then worked with editor Nicholas Biddle who had the journal prepared for printing by 1812, but the printer's business folded. Other printers refused the commission.

Finally, Bradford and Inskeep of Philadelphia undertook the publication under the direction of Paul Allen, hence the work is known as the Biddle/Allen Edition. On February 20, 1814, fewer than fifteen hundred copies went on sale at six dollars each. Many were defective.

In 1893, Elliott Coues reported that "The map is gone from many if not most of the copies of the book now extant . . . it was not issued in all copies of the original edition."

"The map's chief contribution to the cartography of the U.S. is its delineation of the Missouri and Columbia River systems. In 1804 only the lower courses of these rivers were known. By stimulating an interest in the newly acquired territory and in the Oregon Country, Clark's map became a factor in the westward movement." C. O. Paullin, ATLAS OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY.

A TREASURE TO LINK GENERATIONS OF ASTORIANS WITH THE HEROIC EVENTS OF 1804 - 1806

The Astoria Rotary Club voted on September 20, 1971, to give \$2,600 to the Astoria Public Library for the purchase of the rare book and a suitable display case. The two volumes, sold by International Bookfinders in Beverly Hills, had previously been owned by a book dealer in Vermont.

Beautifully rebound about 1875, the books bear the bookplate of John E. Russell, a philosophy professor at Williams College in Massachusetts in the late 1800s. An unknown hand penciled the following on the title page: "This edition is the Ed. Princeps. Very scarce and hardly a perfect copy in N. Y. libraries. The English editions also scarce and lack the appendix. This copy was from my Uncle W's library."

Other copies known to be in the Northwest are in the collections of Oregon Historical Society, Multnomah County Library, University of Washington, and four private collectors. An uncut copy in mint condition was sold at auction in 1967 for \$35,000 and is now in the Beinecke Collection at Yale University.

Other rare books owned by Astoria Public Library include a rare first edition copy of Washington Irving's *ASTORIA*, given by Joseph Saari in 1971. Visitors are encouraged also to enjoy the exhibits at Clatsop County Historical Museum, Columbia River Maritime Museum, and Fort Clatsop National Memorial.

CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEDICATION PROGRAM

MARCH 19, 1972 2:30 P. M.

DR. FRANK RUSSELL, Master of Ceremonies

INVOCATION	Rev. Paul A. Hatt Pastor, Lewis & Clark Bible Church
FLAG SALUTE	Sea Explorer Scouts, Ships Flying Cloud and Moon Wind
HISTORY of the NARRATIVE	Dr. E. G. Chuinard L & C Trail Heritage Foundation
MAPS of the EXPEDITION	Robert E. Lange L & C Trail Heritage Foundation
PRESENTATION of GIFT	Daniel Clifford President, Astoria Rotary Club
ACCEPTANCE of GIFT	Mrs. Mark Stryker President, Library Board
READINGS from the NARRATIVE	Mr. and Mrs. James C. Cameron
REFRESHMENTS IN FLAG ROOM	Children of Lewis and Clark Consolidated School
MOVIE: "JOURNALS OF LEWIS & CLARK" (NBC)	Courtesy of Fort Clatsop National Memorial

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